

CITY of GULFPORT



February 9, 2009

State of the City set for March 5

GULFPORT — The city has set a date and selected a location for this year's State of the City address.

Mayor Brent Warr will make his fourth annual address on **Thursday, March 5, at 5:30 p.m.**, inside the new Courtyard by Marriott on the beach. The city will announce additional details as soon as they become available.

This year's speech will focus on many of the strides made in the past year, in addition to the numerous achievements the city has made in the years and months since the storm. A few highlights are listed below.

PROJECT UPDATES:

- The city has entered Phase II of the Small Craft Harbor rebuilding project. And soon it will be one of the finest harbors in all the Gulf of Mexico.
- Violent crime is down 23 percent.
- The city completed a 12-year effort to purchase all privately owned utility systems in Gulfport.
- The city has increased the paving project budget significantly and hired landscape architect Gus Wesson and horticulturist Bruce Griebel to tend to the city's beautification needs.
- The largest of all municipal projects — a 65,000-square-foot government complex — is being built at the corner of 23rd Avenue and 15th Street downtown.
- The city has reconstructed or repaired nearly a dozen community centers, several of which have reopened in recent months: Willie Locke and Katie Booth to name a few.
- New streetlights are burning along U.S. 90 and the Main Street Association is overseeing a **\$7.6 million** streetscape enhancement project downtown.

Ryan LaFontaine, public information officer • rlafontaine@gulfport-ms.gov •
Phone: 228-234-7659 • P.O. Box 1780 Gulfport, MS 39501-1780 • FAX: 868-5800